

Final Review Draft

Chatham Open Space and Recreation Plan

Available for Public Review and Comment

A Final Review Draft of an update to the 1985 Chatham Open Space and Recreation Plan has been compiled for Public Review and Comment. The Draft Plan is formatted to meet the requirements set forth by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), Division of Conservation Services (DCS), and will make the Town eligible for State LAND and PARC (formerly Self-Help) grants for open space acquisition, protection, or recreational facility improvements. Having an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan also increases a community's "*Commonwealth Capital Score*", a composite ranking of the implementation of sustainable development principles locally, which is used for other State discretionary funding programs (of which the Land Bank plans to apply for in the future).

With the decreasing amount of Land Bank funds available for future purchases and the ever increasing competition for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding, the LAND and PARC grants can be used to complement future open space purchase, by helping to leverage existing funding resources. Victor Di Cristina, Chairman Land Bank and Open Space Committee notes "*the Open Space and Recreation Plan will provide the economic stimulus for the Land Bank to pursue important land purchase opportunities for conservation and recreational use.*"

The table below indicates Cape Cod Towns that have received LAND and PARC grants in the last five fiscal years:

	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10
Conservation Grants (LAND)					
Barnstable	\$500,000				
Brewster			\$500,000	\$351,156	\$500,000
Dennis	\$243,000	\$500,000			
Falmouth				\$473,625	
Harwich					\$192,556
Mashpee				\$83,200	
Orleans	\$500,000		\$500,000		
Provincetown		\$177,060		\$93,600	
Wellfleet	\$351,000			\$223,600	
Yarmouth			\$250,000		
Recreation Grants (PARC)					
Barnstable		\$48,600	\$745,700		
Dennis	\$500,000		\$261,464	\$50,000	\$450,000
Provincetown				\$130,000	
Yarmouth				\$50,000	\$450,000

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The report follows the required state format and contains the following key components:

- Summary
- Introduction/Overview
- Community Setting
- Environmental Inventory and Analysis
- Inventory of Conservation/Recreation Lands
- Analysis of Needs
- Goals and Objectives
- Five-Year Action Plan

While the plan is voluminous with information, the key sections containing proposed actions include Section 8 - Goals and Objectives and Section 9 - Five-Year Action Plan. Also, of particular interest in the plan is the inclusion of twelve maps providing a Town-wide presentation of the following features:

- Regional Context Map
- Zoning
- Soils
- Geologic Features
- Unique Features and Scenic Resources
- Surface Water Resources, Estuarine Watersheds & Public Water Supply
- Coastal & Freshwater Wetlands / Flood Hazard Areas
- Eelgrass, Fisheries & Vernal Pools
- Habitats of Rare & Endangered Species
- Conservation & Recreation Lands
- Environmental Challenges
- Action Plan

As was done previously, the Final Review Draft will be available for review at Eldredge Library, Town Hall, and Town Hall Annex. An electronic copy will also be placed on the Town's website (www.Chatham-MA.gov) available for viewing or downloading. A public meeting has been scheduled for 4 p.m. on May 20th at the Community Center. At the conclusion of the Public Comment period on June 4, 2010, staff would like to gather comment/support letters from your Board/Commission on the Final Review Draft. A copy of this Final Review Draft will also be concurrently submitted to the State Division of Conservation Resources (DCS) so that Chatham may file for LAND and PARC grants in FY 11 funding rounds. If you need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact Kristin Andres or Terry Whalen.

Terry Whalen, Principal Planner
P - 508-945-5168
F- 508-945-5163
twhalen@chatham-ma.gov

Kristin Andres, Conservation Agent
P - 508-945-5164
F - 508-945-5163
kandres@chatham-ma.gov

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